

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 02082 150218Z

ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 FEA-01 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00
ERDA-07 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 EPA-04 INR-07 IO-13
L-03 NSF-02 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-04 USIA-15 SS-15 SP-02
INT-05 /113 W

-----150343Z 041823 /63

R 150102Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5446

UNCLAS TOKYO 2082

DEPT PASS TO EPA/OIA, K. MACONAUGHEY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENVON JA

SUBJECT: USE OF SOIL GROUTS

REF: (A) 76 TOKYO 18161; (B) 76 STATE 292509

1. MINISTRY OF CONSTRUCTION DOES NOT CONTEMPLATE SUSPENDING USE OF SOIL GROUTS IN SEWAGE, SUBWAY, TUNNEL AND OTHER PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS DESPITE SOME LOCAL RESIDENTS' MOVES TO SEEK INJUNCTION OR COMPENSATION FOR INJURIES.

2. RATHER THAN SUSPENDING USE OF GROUTS, MOC DECIDED TO INSTITUTE TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR SENIOR ENGINEERS RESPONSIBLE FOR FIELD OPERATIONS.

3. CURRENTLY, ABOUT 400,000 TONS OF CHEMICAL GROUTS, MAINLY OF WATER GLASS TYPE, ARE BEING USED ANNUALLY FOR ALL KINDS OF PUBLIC WORKS. IN JULY 1974, MOC ISSUED NOTICE LIMITING CHEMICAL STABILIZERS USED IN CONSTRUCTION WORK TO THOSE OF THE WATER GLASS TYPE, WHICH DO NOT CONTAIN HARMFUL SUBSTANCES SUCH AS FLUORINE COMPOUNDS, AND PROVIDING GUIDELINE FOR WORK PROCEDURES INVOLVING USE OF CHEMICAL GROUTS. ACTION WAS UNCLASSIFIED

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TAKEN TO PREVENT RECURRENCE OF INCIDENTS IN FUKUOKA AND HIROSHIMA PREFECTURES IN SAME YEAR; GROUTS CONTAINING ACRYLAMIDE AND UREA DIFFUSED INTO WELL AND POND WATER, CAUSING RESIDENTS WHO HAD DRUNK CONTAMINATED WELLWATER TO (PRESUMABLY) DEVELOP NERVOUS DISORDERS.

4. RECENTLY, A GROUP OF INHABITANTS OF IBARAKI PREFECTURE

DECIDED TO INSTITUTE LAW SUIT AGAINST THE PREFECTURAL AUTHORITIES AND CONSTRUCTION FIRMS, DEMANDING COMPENSATION FOR INJURIES WHICH THEY ASCRIBE TO PRESENCE OF GROUTS IN WELL WATER. ANOTHER GROUP OF TOKYO CITIZENS, SUPPORTED BY A FEW SCIENTISTS, DECIDED TO SEEK COURT INJUNCTION TO SUSPEND WORK. A PHYSICIAN ATTRIBUTED DEATH OF A LEADER OF THE MOVEMENT TO POLLUTION OF UNDERGROUND WATER WITH CHEMICAL GROUTS.

5. MOC'S STAND IS THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO SUSPEND USE OF CERTAIN SPECIFIED SOIL GROUTS WHEN NO SUBSTITUTES HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED AS YET, AND THAT INCIDENTS CAN BE FULLY PREVENTED IF 1974 MOC GUIDELINES ARE FAITHFULLY OBSERVED IN CARRYING OUT ANY PUBLIC WORKS PROJECT.

6. JAPAN ECONOMIC JOURNAL DATED 2/8/77 REPORTED THAT UNIQUE SOFT SOIL HARDENING TECHNOLOGY HAS BEEN DEVELOPED BY TAKENAKA KOMUTEN CO., A LEADING CONSTRUCTION AND CIVIL ENGINEERING FIRM OF OSAKA, SHORTLY WILL BE MARKETED IN U.S. TAKANAKA IDENTIFIES TECHNOLOGY AS TAC (STANDING FOR TAKENAKA AQUARREACTIVE CHEMICAL SOIL STABILIZATION) SYSTEM. DEVELOPED IN 1968, SYSTEM IS FOR HARDENING SOFT SOIL AROUND HOLES DRILLED IN GROUND BY PUMPING INTO HOLES A FLUID (IDENTIFIED BY THE FIRM AS URETHANE RESIN FOAM CONTAINING POLYISOCYANATE AS MAIN INGREDIENT) AND LETTING THE CHEMICAL REACT WITH WATER IN THE SOIL SURROUNDING THE HOLES. THE FIRM LICENSED THE METHOD TO A DUTCH CONSTRUCTION FIRM IN 1970, BUT ITS PLANNED U.S. VENTURE WILL BE ITS FIRST FULL-FLEDGED INTERNATIONAL ATTEMPT TO MARKET THE TECHNOLOGY. BROCHURE ON DETAILS OF PRODUCT IS AVAILABLE AND EMBASSY WILL FORWARD IT UPON REQUEST.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLLUTION, CHEMICALS
Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Office: ACTION OES
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 TOKYO 18161, 76 STATE 292509
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3312808
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: USE OF SOIL GROUTS
TAGS: SENV, JA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/07244bc6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009